

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 2, 5, 8, 11, 14, 17 and 19 to 24 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, add new Claims 25 to 27, and amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus for executing an error diffusion process to ~~multivalue image data consisting of~~ a plurality of density components, comprising:

first processing means for executing the error diffusion process by changing at least one of a quantization threshold value and a quantization diffusion coefficient which are used for ~~said the~~ error diffusion process on the basis of ~~a value of said multivalue image data~~ information on one of the density components ~~to be processed or a value calculated from said multivalue image data value;~~

second processing means for executing the error diffusion process by setting into fixed values, the quantization threshold value and the quantization diffusion coefficient which are used for ~~said the~~ error diffusion process ~~into fixed values;~~ and

error diffusion processing control means for making controlling to execute, by the first processing means, the error diffusion process to density components of a similar color among the plurality of density components by executing the error diffusion process to the density component whose highest density which can be expressed is low, and executing, by the second processing means, the error diffusion process to the density component whose highest density which can be expressed is high at least one color among

~~said plurality of density components by said first processing means and execute the error diffusion process to other density components by said second processing means.~~

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first processing means is an error diffusion process for executing quantization on the basis of information of the other density components among said plurality of density components.

4. (Currently Amended) A print control apparatus for executing an error diffusion process to ~~multivalue image data consisting of~~ a plurality of density components, comprising:

first processing means for executing the error diffusion process by changing at least one of a quantization threshold value and a quantization diffusion coefficient which are used for ~~said the~~ error diffusion process on the basis of ~~a value of said multivalue image data~~ information on one of the density components to be processed or a value calculated from said multivalue image data value;

second processing means for executing the error diffusion process by setting into fixed values, the quantization threshold value and the quantization diffusion coefficient which are used for ~~said the~~ error diffusion process ~~into fixed values;~~ and

error diffusion processing control means for ~~making controlling~~ to execute, by the first processing means, the error diffusion process to density components of a similar color among the plurality of density components by executing the error diffusion

process to the density component whose highest density which can be expressed is low,
and executing, by the second processing means, the error diffusion process to the density
component whose highest density which can be expressed is high at least one color among
said plurality of density components by said first processing means and execute the error
diffusion process to other density components by said second processing means.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said first
processing means is an error diffusion process for executing quantization on the basis of
information of the other density components among said plurality of density components.

7. (Currently Amended) An image processing method of executing an
error diffusion process to ~~multivalue image data consisting of~~ a plurality of density
components, comprising:

a first processing step of executing the error diffusion process by changing
at least one of a quantization threshold value and a quantization diffusion coefficient which
are used for ~~said the~~ error diffusion process on the basis of ~~a value of said multivalue~~
~~image data~~ information on one of the density components to be processed ~~or a value~~
~~calculated from said multivalue image data value;~~

a second processing step of executing the error diffusion process by setting,
into fixed values, the quantization threshold value and the quantization diffusion
coefficient which are used for ~~said the~~ error diffusion process into fixed values; and

an error diffusion processing control step of ~~making~~ controlling to execute the error diffusion process to the density components of a similar color among the plurality of density components by executing, by the first processing step, the error diffusion process to the density component whose highest density which can be expressed is low, and executing, by the second processing step, the error diffusion process to the density component whose highest density which can be expressed is high at least one color among said plurality of density components by said first processing step and execute the error diffusion process to other density components by said second processing step.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) A method according to claim 7, wherein said first processing step is an error diffusion process for executing quantization on the basis of information of the other density components among said plurality of density components.

10. (Currently Amended) A print control method of executing an error diffusion process to ~~multivalue image data consisting of~~ a plurality of density components, comprising:

a first processing step of executing the error diffusion process by changing at least one of a quantization threshold value and a quantization diffusion coefficient which are used for ~~said the~~ error diffusion process on the basis of ~~a value of said multivalue image data information on one~~ of the density components ~~to be processed or a value~~ calculated from said multivalue image data value;

a second processing step of executing the error diffusion process by setting, into fixed values, the quantization threshold value and the quantization diffusion coefficient which are used for ~~said the~~ error diffusion process ~~into fixed values~~; and

an error diffusion processing control step of making controlling to execute the error diffusion process to the density components of a similar color among the plurality of density components by executing, by the first processing step, the error diffusion process to the density component whose highest density which can be expressed is low, and executing, by the second processing step, the error diffusion process to the density component whose highest density which can be expressed is high at least one color among said plurality of density components by ~~said first processing step and execute the error diffusion process to other density components by said second processing step.~~

11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) A method according to claim 10, wherein said first processing step is an error diffusion process for executing quantization on the basis of information of the other density components among said plurality of density components.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storing storage medium on which is stored stores an image processing program for executing an error diffusion process to ~~multivalue image data consisting of~~ a plurality of density components, wherein said program comprises:

a first processing step of executing the error diffusion process by changing at least one of a quantization threshold value and a quantization diffusion coefficient which are used for ~~said the~~ error diffusion process on the basis of ~~a value of said multivalue image data information on one~~ of the density components ~~to be processed or a value calculated from said multivalue image data value;~~

a second processing step of executing the error diffusion process by setting, ~~into fixed values,~~ the quantization threshold value and the quantization diffusion coefficient which are used for ~~said the~~ error diffusion process ~~into fixed values;~~ and

an error diffusion processing control step of ~~making controlling~~ to execute the error diffusion process to ~~the density components of a similar color among the plurality of density components by executing, by the first processing step, the error diffusion process to the density component whose highest density which can be expressed is low, and executing, by the second processing step, the error diffusion process to the density component whose highest density which can be expressed is high~~ at least one color among said plurality of density components by said first processing step and execute the error diffusion process to other density components by said second processing step.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium according to claim 13, wherein said first processing step is an error diffusion process for executing quantization on the basis of information of the other density components among said plurality of density components.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable ~~storage~~ storing medium on which ~~stores~~ is stored a print control program for executing an error diffusion process to multivalue image data consisting of a plurality of density components, wherein said program comprises:

a first processing step of executing the error diffusion process by changing at least one of a quantization threshold value and a quantization diffusion coefficient which are used for ~~said the~~ error diffusion process on the basis of information on one a value of ~~said multivalue image data~~ of the density components to be processed ~~or a value calculated from said multivalue image data value;~~

a second processing step of executing the error diffusion process by setting, into fixed values, the quantization threshold value and the quantization diffusion coefficient which are used for ~~said the~~ error diffusion process into fixed values; and

an error diffusion processing control step of ~~making~~ controlling to execute the error diffusion process to the density components of a similar color among the plurality of density components by executing, by the first processing step, the error diffusion process to the density component whose highest density which can be expressed is low, and executing, by the second processing step, the error diffusion process to the density component whose highest density which can be expressed is high at least one color among said plurality of density components by said first processing step and execute the error diffusion process to other density components by said second processing step.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium according to claim 16, wherein said first processing step is an error diffusion process for executing quantization on the basis of information of the other density components among said plurality of density components.

19. to 24. (Canceled)

25. (New) An image processing apparatus for executing an error diffusion process to a plurality of density components, comprising:

first processing means for executing the error diffusion process by changing at least one of a quantization threshold value and a quantization diffusion coefficient which are used for the error diffusion process on the basis of information on one of the density components to be processed;

second processing means for executing the error diffusion process by setting, into fixed values, the quantization threshold value and the quantization diffusion coefficient which are used for the error diffusion process; and

error diffusion processing control means for controlling to execute the error diffusion process of the density components of a similar color among the plurality of density components by executing, by the first processing means, the error diffusion process to the density component whose droplet is small, and executing, by the second processing means, the error diffusion process to the density component whose droplet is large.

26. (New) A method for an image processing apparatus for executing an error diffusion process to a plurality of density components, comprising:

a first processing step for executing the error diffusion process by changing at least one of a quantization threshold value and a quantization diffusion coefficient which are used for the error diffusion process on the basis of information on one of the density components to be processed;

a second processing step for executing the error diffusion process by setting, into fixed values, the quantization threshold value and the quantization diffusion coefficient which are used for the error diffusion process; and

an error diffusion processing control step for controlling to execute the error diffusion process of the density components of a similar color among the plurality of density components by executing, by the first processing means, the error diffusion process to the density component whose droplet is small, and executing, by the second processing means, the error diffusion process to the density component whose droplet is large.

27. (New) A computer-readable storage medium on which is stored a program for executing an error diffusion process to a plurality of density components, the program comprising:

a first processing step for executing the error diffusion process by changing at least one of a quantization threshold value and a quantization diffusion coefficient which are used for the error diffusion process on the basis of information on one of the density components to be processed;

a second processing step for executing the error diffusion process by setting, into fixed values, the quantization threshold value and the quantization diffusion coefficient which are used for the error diffusion process; and

an error diffusion processing control step for controlling to execute the error diffusion process of the density components of a similar color among the plurality of density components by executing, by the first processing means, the error diffusion process to the density component whose droplet is small, and executing, by the second processing means, the error diffusion process to the density component whose droplet is large.